(c) Yes, Sir. To consider amendments in the laws concerning rape, the National Commission for Women has recently conducted State-wise workshops involving lawyers, members of judiciary and police force, social workers etc. The Commission brought out a compedium titled 'Rape—A Legal Study', which contained the recommendations that emerged out of these workshops. The recommendatins *inter-alia* contained uniformly raising the age of consent under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code and all correlated laws to 18 years; giving a broader definition for the work 'rape' to include various types of sexual assault; deletion of the exception relating to marital rape under Section 375 of the IPC, etc.

(d) The recommendations made by the National Commission for Women have been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate action.

News-Item on appointment of Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

3132. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRINAGENDRA NATO OJHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news-item captioned "Kendriya Vidyalayas ke ayukta ki Niyukti Ko CAT ne radd Kiya", which appeared in the Nav Bharat Times dated the 9th January, 2001 edition of New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have gone in appeal against the order of the Tribunal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the vacancy has since been advertised; and

(e) the rationale of his still continuing?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has filed an appeal in the High Court of Delhi against the order of the CAT. The matter is currently subjudice.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Officer's continuance is as per the orders of CAT itself.

Excise duty on marble

3133. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total production of marble in the country, Rajasthan is contributing more than 90%;

(b) whether Government are aware that the imposition of excise duty on processed marble will have far reaching effect, particularly when import of marble from overseas countries has been allowed; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reduce the excise duty on processed marble to Rs. *1(V-* per sqare meter, as prevailing before March, 1994, instead of Rs. 40/- per sq. meter which was increased in 1998-99, for survival of indigenous marble industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) Marble is a minor mineral as defined under Section 3(e) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and as such information/ data of production of marble is not maintained by the Central Government. However, as per information furnished by State Government of Rajasthan, it is contributing more than 90% of country's total marble production. The excise duty rates for all items including those for marble are laid down by the Government as part of the annual Budgetary exercise, taking into consideration the overall policy thrust of the Budget.